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(54) **EXERCISE DEVICE**

(57) An exercise roller device, comprising: a substantially rigid inner roller; and a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller supported by the substantially rigid inner

roller, wherein the exercise roller device comprises a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion connected to opposite end roller portions.

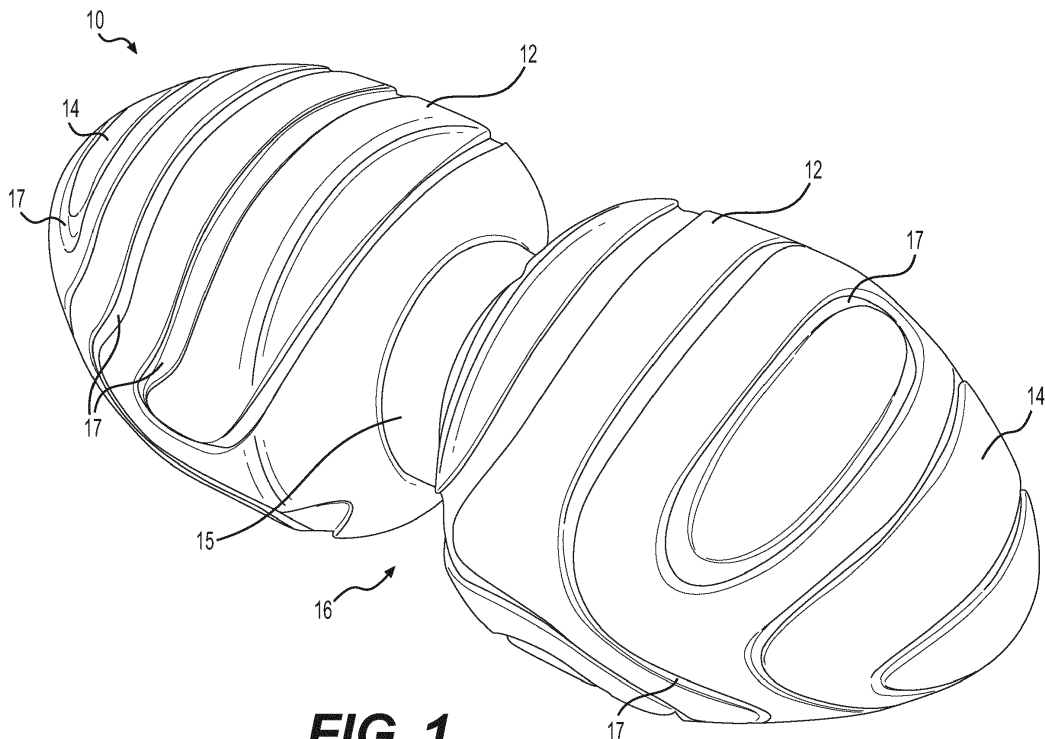


FIG. 1

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Description

FIELD

[0001] An exercise device, in particular an exercise roller device comprising an inner roller supporting and an outer roller. The inner roller can be substantially rigid and the outer roller can be soft or resiliently deformable.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In the past, various types of rolling devices are used as exercise roller devices. A person can exercise using the exercise roller device in many different ways to exercise.

[0003] US5,577,995 discloses a therapeutic device to mobilize the spinal joints and soft tissues surrounding the human spine. The device includes two substantially solid spherical balls mounted on a shaft for independent rotation.

SUMMARY

[0004] According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided an exercise roller device as set out in the accompanying claims.

[0005] Some examples show:

- An improved exercise device.
- An improved exercise roller device.
- A composite exercise roller device.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting and outer roller.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting one or more outer roller panels defining an outer roller.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller connected to one or more soft or resiliently deformable outer roller.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller connected to one or more soft or resiliently deformable outer roller panels.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller connected to one or more soft or resiliently deformable outer roller panels.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting multiple outer roller panels.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting multiple soft or resiliently deformable outer roller panels.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising an inner roller shell.

- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising an inner roller shell and one more interior reinforcing members configured to reinforce the inner roller shell.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising an inner roller shell and one more interior reinforcing members configured to reinforce the inner roller shell.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising a substantially rigid inner roller shell and one more interior reinforcing members configured to reinforce the inner roller shell.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising two or more inner roller portions.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising two or more inner roller portions.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising a two or more inner roller portions connected together.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising two or more inner roller portions connected together.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising a pair of one-half roller portions connected together.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising a pair of one-half inner roller portions connected together.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting an outer roller, the inner roller comprising a pair of one-half inner roller portions connected together, the inner roller portions comprising one or more longitudinal interior ribs and one or more transverse interior ribs.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a substantially rigid inner roller supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller, the inner roller comprising a pair of one-half roller portions connected together, the roller portions comprising one or more longitudinal interior ribs and one or more transverse interior ribs.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a center roller portion and a pair of nose cone-shaped end roller portions connected together.

- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of a center roller portion and a pair of nose cone-shaped end roller portions connected together, the center roller portion comprising a center V-shaped circumferential groove.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting two or more outer roller panels.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting two or more outer roller panels defining at least a portion of an outer surface of the exercise roller device.
- An exercise roller device comprising or consisting of an inner roller supporting two or more outer roller panels defining an entire outer surface of the exercise roller device.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising making an outer roller; making an inner roller, and assembling the inner roller within the outer roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising making an inner roller; and overmolding an outer roller on the inner roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising making an inner roller comprising two or more inner roller portions; assembling the inner roller; and assembling an outer roller on the inner roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising making an inner roller comprising two or more inner roller portions; and overmolding an outer roller on the assembled inner roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising injection molding an inner roller, inserting the inner roller in a mold; and overmolding an outer roller on the inner roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising injection molding two or more portions of an inner roller; assembling the inner roller; inserting the inner roller in a mold; and overmolding an outer roller on the inner roller.
- A method of making an exercise roller device comprising injection molding two half portions of an inner roller; assembling the two half portions together; inserting the inner roller in a mold; and overmolding an outer roller on the inner roller.
- The exercise roller device comprises or consists of a roller. The roller can be hard, soft, resiliently deformable, or combination thereof. For example, the roller comprises a substantially stiff inner roller and a resilient or soft outer roller.
- The exercise roller device can comprise a center cylindrical center portion and nose cone-shape end portions connected together. The roller can include a V-shaped center portion, modified V-shape center portion, U-shaped center portion, modified U-shape center portion (e.g. a circumferential groove).
- The exercise roller device can comprise an inner roller supporting (e.g. connected to, layered, covered by) an outer roller. The inner roller can be substan-

tially rigid, and the outer roller can be soft or resilient (e.g. resiliently deformable).

[0006] The outer roller can comprise or consist of one or more outer roller panels supported (e.g. connected to, layered, overmolded) by the inner roller. The one or more outer roller panels can be soft or resiliently deformable (e.g. made of thermoplastic elastomer material).

[0007] The inner roller can have a solid construction (e.g. solid injection molded part or component) or a non-solid construction (e.g. molded with separated layers, voids, cells, cavities). For example, the inner roller comprises two or more parts or components connected or assembled together. For example, the inner roller comprises two molded halves (e.g. injection molded) that are solid, or comprise voids, cells, or cavities. For example, the inner roller comprises a shell along with one or more interior longitudinal ribs and one or more transverse ribs (e.g. injection molded nylon material halves with one or more longitudinal ribs and multiple transverse ribs interconnected to or integrate with the shell). The two halves are connected together (e.g. by adhering or mechanically fastening or coupling together (e.g. one or more screws) to form an assembled inner roller. One of the halves can be provided with a raised perimeter flange cooperating with a perimeter groove in the other half to guide and strengthen the perimeter connection between the two halves. At a junction, for example, between a center longitudinal rib and a transverse rib, a round anchoring screw receptacle is molded to anchor end(s) of the screw(s) for assembling the halves together.

[0008] The inner roller can be provided with a circumferential rib (e.g. wide rib) provided at the center of the circumferential groove. A pair of outer roller panels connect to the inner roller and abut the wide rib so that the outer surface of the exercise roller device is defined by the exterior surfaces of the outer roller panels and the exterior surface of the wide rib. Alternatively, the rib is eliminated, and the two outer roller panels abut each other and the exterior surfaces of the two outer roller panels define the entire exterior surface of the exercise roller device.

[0009] The exercise roller device can comprise or consist of an inner roller portion and an outer roller portion. For example, the exercise roller device comprises a substantially rigid inner roller portion supporting a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller portion. The outer roller portion can comprise one or more panels. The outer roller portion can comprise multiple panels that can be of the same size and shape, or can be of a different size and/or shape. The shape of the exercise roller device comprises a roller portion that can be cylindrical-shaped, modified cylindrical-shaped (e.g. oval and/or oblong-shaped transverse cross-sectional shape), multi-sided transverse cross-sectional shape (e.g. triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, more than eight sided).

[0010] The inner roller can be a substantially rigid inner

roller. For example, the roller is made of plastic, nylon, or composite material (e.g. injection molded plastic article). Alternatively, the inner roller can be machined from a pre-form or block of material (e.g. plastic pre-form or block of plastic material).

[0011] The exercise roller device can comprise an inner roller and at least one outer roller panel supported by the inner roller. For example, the outer roller panel or panels can be made separately, and then applied or assembled to the inner roller (e.g. by adhering and/or mechanically coupling). Alternatively, the at least one outer roller panel can be formed on the inner roller (e.g. insert molding, overmolding).

[0012] The outer roller panel or panels can each be made as a single piece, or can be made of multiple pieces joined together (e.g. molded, adhered, mechanically coupled, or combination thereof). For example, the outer roller panels can each be made with an inner support panel (e.g. made of nylon) and an outer cover panel made of resilient deformable material (e.g. thermoplastic elastomer). The panel or panels can be smooth or textured (e.g. pattern of projections, ribs, recesses, grooves). For example, the panel or panels can be molded from thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) material.

[0013] The exercise roller device can be used as a self-massaging tool to facilitate manipulation of the cerebral vertebrae. The exercise roller device can be used as a stretch device by roller backward and forward.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0014]

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exercise roller device.

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a rear elevational view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a top planar view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a bottom planar view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a left side elevational view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a right side elevational view of the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of another exercise roller device.

FIG. 9 is an exploded perspective view of the disas-

sembled exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1, to illustrate its construction.

FIG. 10 is a diagrammatic view showing the exercise roller device shown in FIG. 1 positioned under the back between the shoulders of a user.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] An exercise roller device 10 is shown in FIGS. 1 thru 7. The exercise roller device 10 comprises a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion 12 and end roller portions 14, which can have a particular shape (e.g. cylindrical-shaped, parabolic-shaped, nose cone-shaped). The center roller portion 12 can be provided with a centered cylindrical-shaped portion 15 located within a circumferential groove 16 (e.g. V-shaped, modified V-shaped, U-shaped, modified U-shaped groove 16). The cylindrical-shaped center roller portion 12 can be of a greater diameter compared with the centered cylindrical-shaped portion 15.

[0016] The surface of the exercise roller device 10 is provided with a pattern of grooves 17 as shown. The grooves 17 can be closed-looped (e.g. circles, ovals, modified ovals), or can be open-looped (e.g. curves, straight portions). The pattern of grooves can be located in the surface of the outer roller (e.g. in a first surface layer only, in first and second surface layers, or deeper) of the exercise roller device 10. The grooves 17 are shown as being a pattern of separated and/or spaced apart grooves.

[0017] Another exercise device 110 is shown in FIG. 8. The exercise roller device 110 comprises a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion 112 and end roller portions 114 having particular shape (e.g. cylindrical, parabolic-shaped, nose cone-shaped). The center roller portion 112 is provided with a cylindrical portion 115 located within a circumferential groove 116 (e.g. V-shaped, modified V-shaped, U-shaped, modified U-shaped). The cylindrical-shaped center roller portion 112 can be of greater diameter compared with the centered cylindrical-shaped portion 115.

[0018] The exercise roller device 110 is provided with a pattern of grooves 117 as shown and different from the pattern of grooves compared to the exercised roller device 10 shown in FIG. 1. The grooves 117 are shown as being a pattern of connecting or interconnected grooves.

METHOD OF MAKING DEVICE

[0019] As shown in FIG. 9, the exercise roller device 10 can comprise an inner roller 18 and an outer roller 20.

[0020] The inner roller 18 comprises two (2) half inner roller portions 18a, 18b connected together. The roller portions 18a, 18b are molded (e.g. injection molded) and made of plastic material (e.g. nylon material).

[0021] The upper inner roller portion 18a fits over a peripheral flange 22 of the lower inner roller portion 18b

for connecting the edges of the inner roller portions 18a, 18b together during assembly of the inner roller 18 and reinforcing the edges thereof in the assembled article.

[0022] The inner roller portions 18a, 18b have the same or similar inner reinforcing structure to be defined with reference to the inner roller portion 18b. As shown in FIG. 9, the inner roller portion 18b comprises a center longitudinal rib 24 connecting to multiple transverse ribs 26. The number of longitudinal ribs (e.g. one (1) longitudinal rib shown) can be decreased (i.e. none) or increased, and the number of transverse ribs can be decreased or increased (e.g. eight (8) shown). The ribs 24, 26 interconnect with each other (e.g. formed interconnected during molding), and also connect to and support the shell 28. The ribs 24, 26 and shell 28 define a plurality of cavities, voids, and/or cells 30 providing multiple hollow portions of the inner roller 18. This rib type construction reinforces the shell 28 of the inner roller 18 making the inner roller 18 substantially rigid, stronger, and more durable while reducing the weight and material required to make same.

[0023] The inner roller portion 18a is provided with molded recesses 32 in the surface thereof. The molded recesses includes a hole at the bottom of the recess (not shown) for accommodating the heads of screws 34 when the inner roller 18 is assembled together.

[0024] The inner roller portion 18b is provided with molded round bosses 36 each having a hole for receiving the free ends of the screws 34 to anchor same therein.

[0025] The inner roller portions 18a, 18b are provided with centered ridge halves 38 defining a circumferential ridge 40 when assembled together. The circumferential ridge 40 defines the center cylindrical portion 15 in the assembled exercise roller device 10.

[0026] The outer roller 20 comprises four (4) separate outer roller panels 42 to be supported (e.g. connected, attached, layered) on the assembled inner roller 18. The outer roller panels 38 are connected to the inner roller 18, for example, by adhesive and/or mechanical connection (e.g. fastening or coupling). The inner edges 42a of the outer roller panels 38 abut up against the side edges of the circumferential ridge 40, when assembled onto the inner roller 20 to provide a smooth seamless transition and outer surface of the exercise roller device 10.

[0027] Alternatively, the circumferential ridge 40 is eliminated, and the inner edges 42a are modified to abut against each other at the center of the exercise roller device 10, again providing a smooth seamless transition and outer surface of the exercise roller device. 10.

[0028] The outer roller panels 42 are resiliently deformable, and, for example, are molded (e.g. injection molded) using plastic material (e.g. thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) material).

[0029] Alternatively to the above construction, after the inner roller 18 can be assembled, and then the outer roller 20 can be overmolded onto the inner roller 18 (e.g. by insert molded) to complete the assembly.

[0030] The exercise roller device 10 can be made by

making the inner roller 18 and the outer roller 20. For example, the half portions of the inner roller 20 are injection molded from plastic material. The two half portions of the inner roller are then assembled together, and secured using the screws 34.

[0031] The outer roller panel portions 42 can be made, for example, by injections molding. The outer panel portions 42 can be a single layer or multiple layer of the same or different materials. For example, an inner panel of stiffer plastic material can be molded, and then a more resilient or softer outer panel or layer is overmolded on the inner panel (e.g. by insert molding). The made outer roller panel portions 42 can then be assembled onto the assembled inner roller 18 (e.g. by adhesive, taping, heat welding, mechanical fastening).

[0032] Alternatively, the inner roller 18 is assembled, and then the outer roller 18 is overmolded onto the inner roller 18 (e.g. by insert molding). As a further alternative, the inner roller 18 is injection molded as a unit or made from a perform or block of material (e.g. machined), and then fitted with outer roller panel portions 42, or overmolded with the outer panel 20.

USE

[0033] As shown in FIG. 10, the user places the exercise roller device 10 on the floor and lies on the device so that the device is centered on the user back and aligned with his or her spine as shown. The user then moved back and forth sideways to roll the exercise roller device between the floor and his or back. This exercise is performed with care, and limited physical activity.

[0034] Aspects of the disclosure are described in the numbered paragraphs of Annex A in terms of exemplary combinations of features.

ANNEX A:

[0035]

1. An exercise roller device, comprising:

an outer roller comprising a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion provided with parabolic-shaped end roller portions located at opposite ends of the center roller portion, the center roller portion comprising a centered cylindrical-shaped portion located within a centered circumferential groove, the centered cylindrical-shaped portion having a diameter less than the cylindrical-shaped roller portion; and an inner roller supporting the outer roller.

2. An exercise roller device, comprising:

an outer roller comprising a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion provided with parabolic-shaped end roller portions located at opposite

ends of the center roller portion, the center roller portion comprising a centered cylindrical-shaped portion located within a centered circumferential groove, the centered cylindrical-shaped portion having a diameter less than the cylindrical-shaped roller portion; and an inner roller supporting the outer roller, the inner roller comprising multiple inner roller portions assembled together, the inner roller portion comprising a shell and one or more longitudinal webs interconnected to one or more transverse webs defining multiple cells within the inner roller.

3. The device according to paragraph 2, wherein the inner roller is substantially rigid and the outer roller is soft or resiliently deformable.

4. The device according to paragraph 2, where the outer roller comprises one or more outer roller panels connected to the inner roller.

5. The device according to paragraph 4, wherein the one or more panels is multiple panels.

6. The device according to paragraph 5, wherein the multiple panels are of the same size and shape.

7. The device according to paragraph 1, wherein the outer roller is overmolded onto the inner roller.

8. The device according to paragraph 1, wherein the inner roller comprises two or more inner roller portions assembled together.

9. The device according to paragraph 9, wherein the inner roller comprises two (2) half inner roller portions assembled together.

10. The device according to paragraph 1, wherein the inner roller comprises a shell and one or more interconnecting reinforcing ribs.

11. The device according to paragraph 10, wherein the reinforcing ribs comprises one or more longitudinal ribs and one or more transverse ribs.

12. The device according to paragraph 11, wherein the reinforcing ribs comprise a center longitudinal rib and multiple transverse ribs.

13. The device according to paragraph 11, wherein the reinforcing ribs comprised a center longitudinal rib and multiple transverse ribs defining multiple cells.

14. The device according to paragraph 1, wherein the inner roller portion comprises a centered circum-

ferential ridge, and the outer roller portion comprises four (4) outer roller portions connecting to the inner roller portion and abutting the centered circumferential ridge.

15. A method of making a exercise roller device comprising:

plastic injecting molding a pair of half inner roller portions, the inner roller portions each comprising a shell interconnected to at least one longitudinal ridge and multiple transverse ribs; assembling two (2) half inner roller portions together to make a substantially rigid assembled inner roller portion; and providing a resilient or soft elastomeric outer roller portion on the assembled inner roller portion to make the exercise roller device.

Claims

1. An exercise roller device, comprising:
 - a substantially rigid inner roller; and
 - a soft or resiliently deformable outer roller supported by the substantially rigid inner roller, wherein the exercise roller device comprises a cylindrical-shaped center roller portion connected to opposite end roller portions.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the soft or resiliently deformable outer roller is overmolded onto the substantially rigid inner roller.
3. The device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the cylindrical-shaped center roller portion is provided with a centered circumferential groove.
4. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the outer roller and the inner roller are fixed relative to each other to prevent movement between the outer roller and inner roller
5. The device according to claim 4, wherein the outer roller comprises one or more panels that are connected to the inner roller by means of adhesive and/or a mechanical connection including fastening or coupling.
6. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the inner roller has a solid construction.
7. The device according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the inner roller is a non-solid construction.
8. The device according to claim 7, wherein the inner roller is molded and comprises one or more of sep-

arated layers, voids, cells, and/or cavities.

- 9. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the outer roller is made of thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). 5
- 10. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the inner roller is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, nylon, and composite. 10
- 11. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the outer roller comprises one or more textured panels. 15
- 12. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein the end roller portions have a particular shape, including one selected from the group consisting of cylindrical-shaped, parabolic-shaped, and nose cone-shaped. 20
- 13. The device according to any preceding claim, wherein an outer surface of the exercise roller device is defined by a surface portion of the outer roller and a surface portion of the inner roller. 25
- 14. The device according to claim 13, wherein a surface of a centered circumferential groove is defined by the surface portion of the inner roller and a remainder surface portion of the exercise roller device is defined by the surface portion of the outer roller. 30

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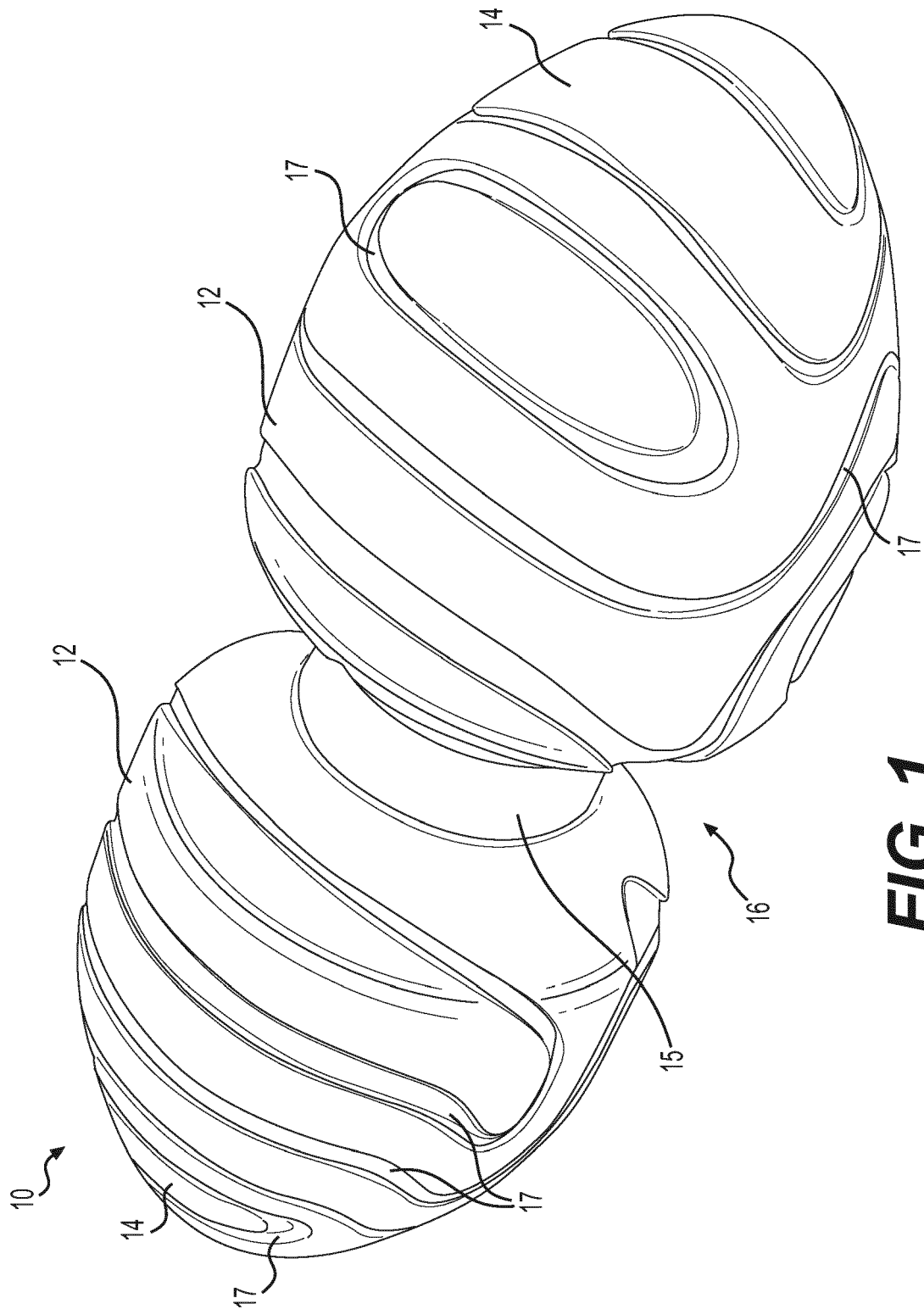


FIG. 1

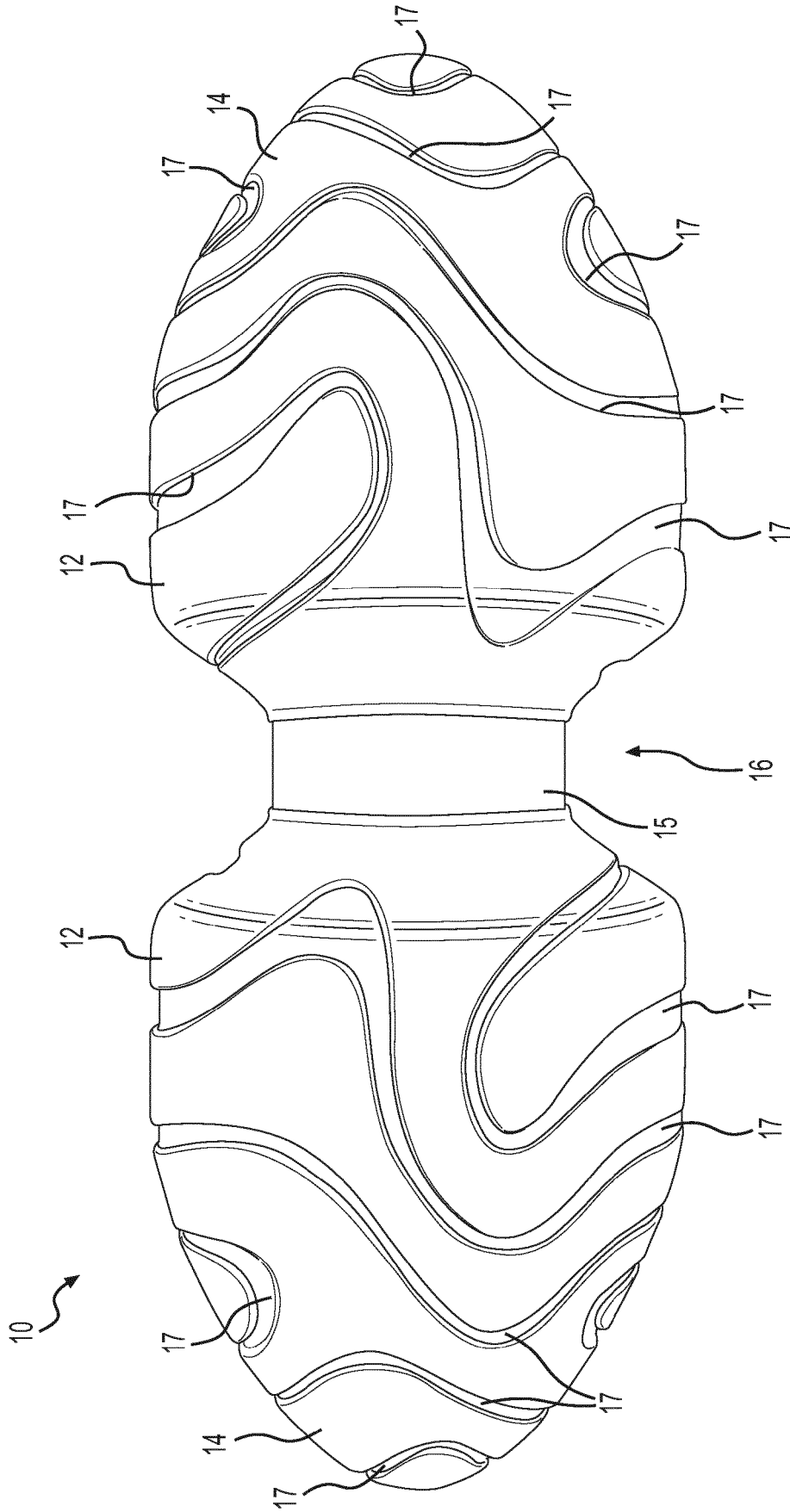


FIG. 2

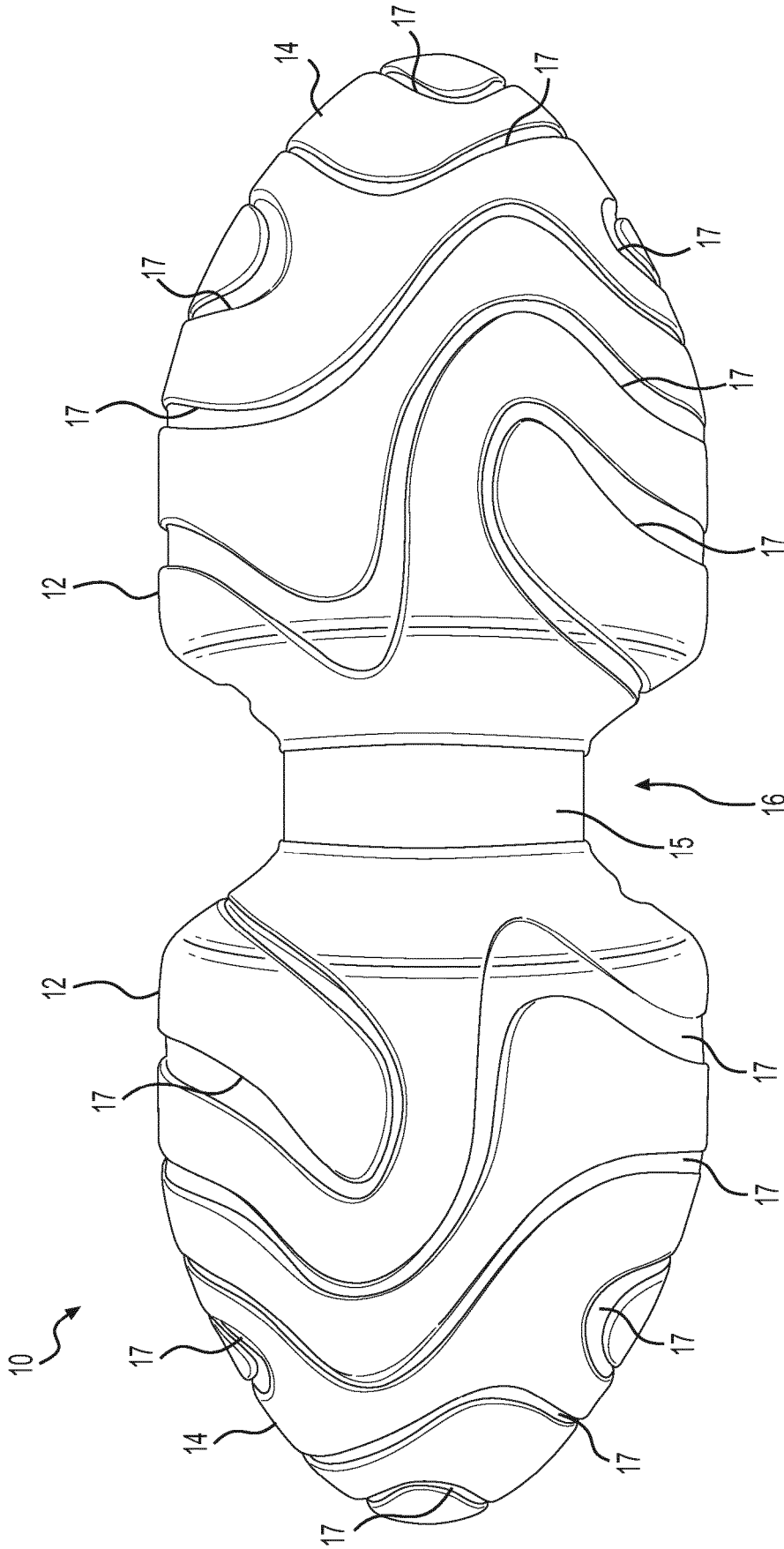


FIG. 3

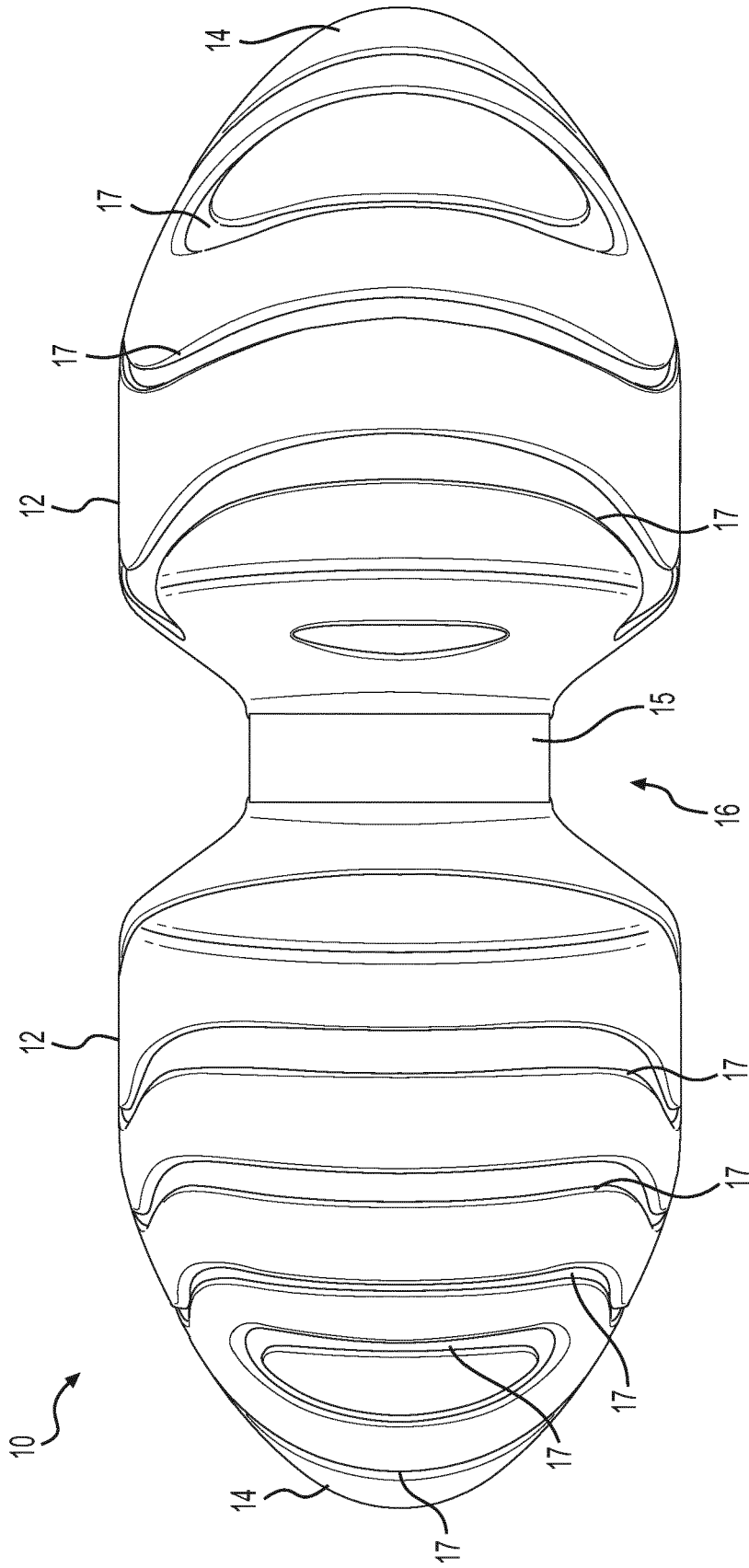


FIG. 4

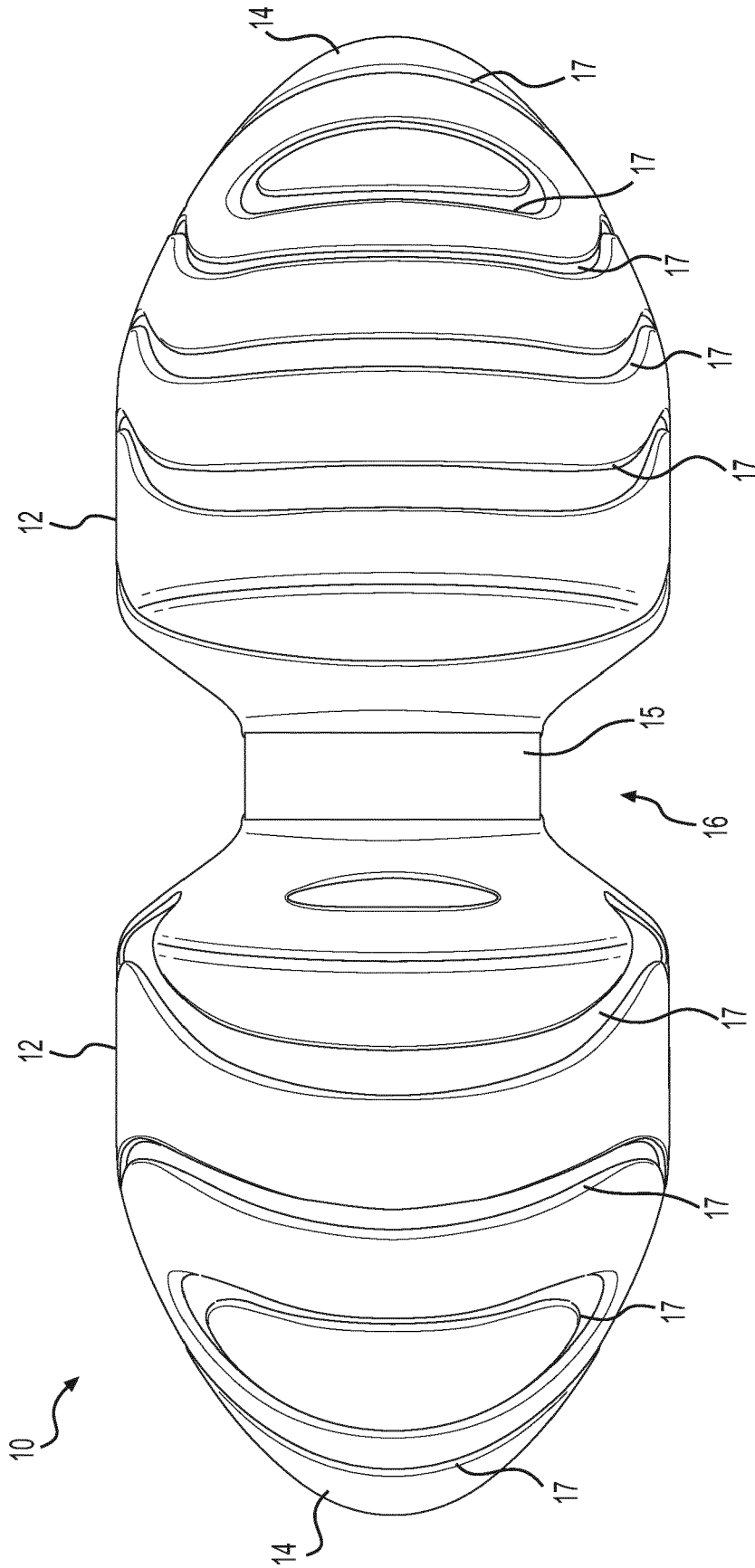


FIG. 5

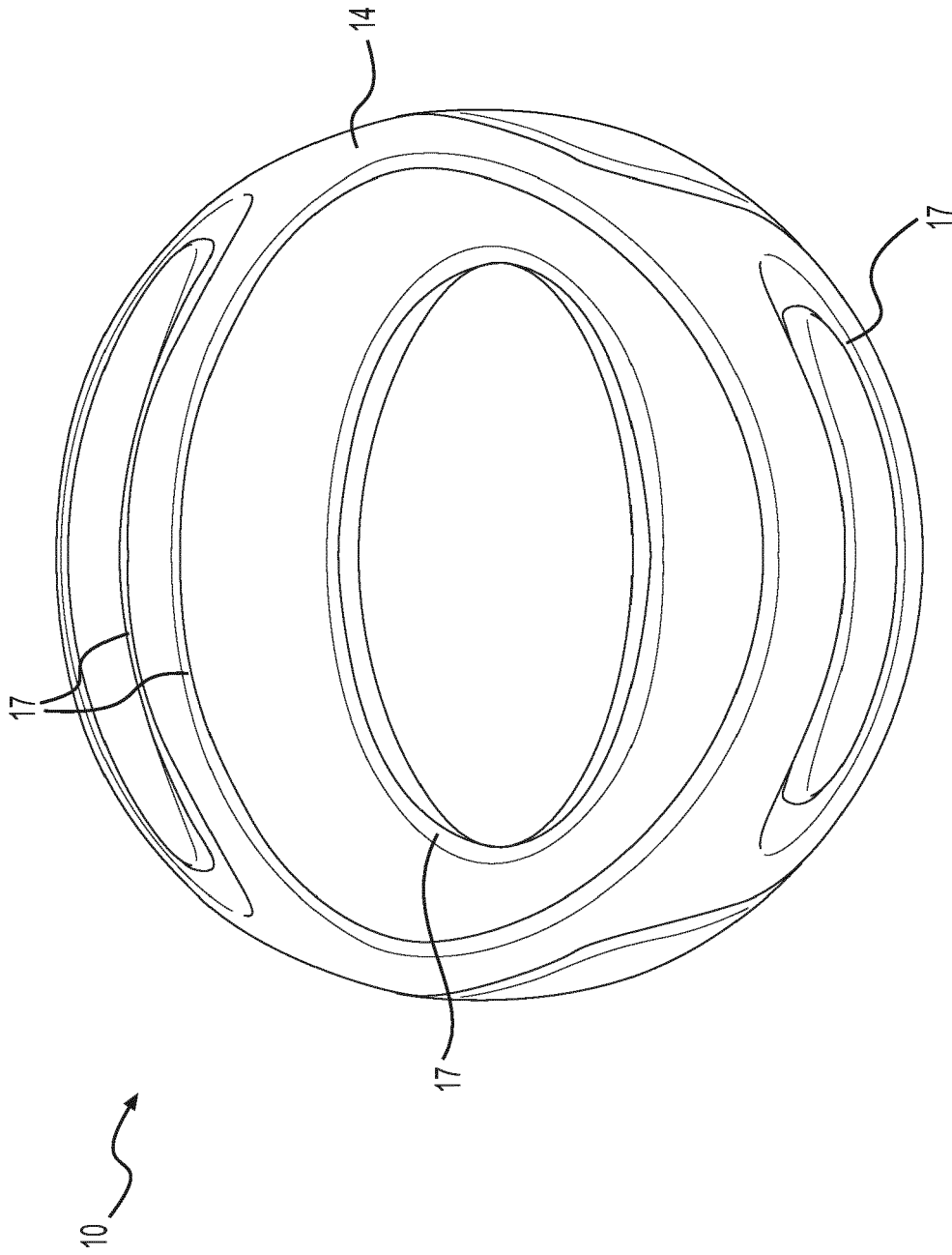


FIG. 6

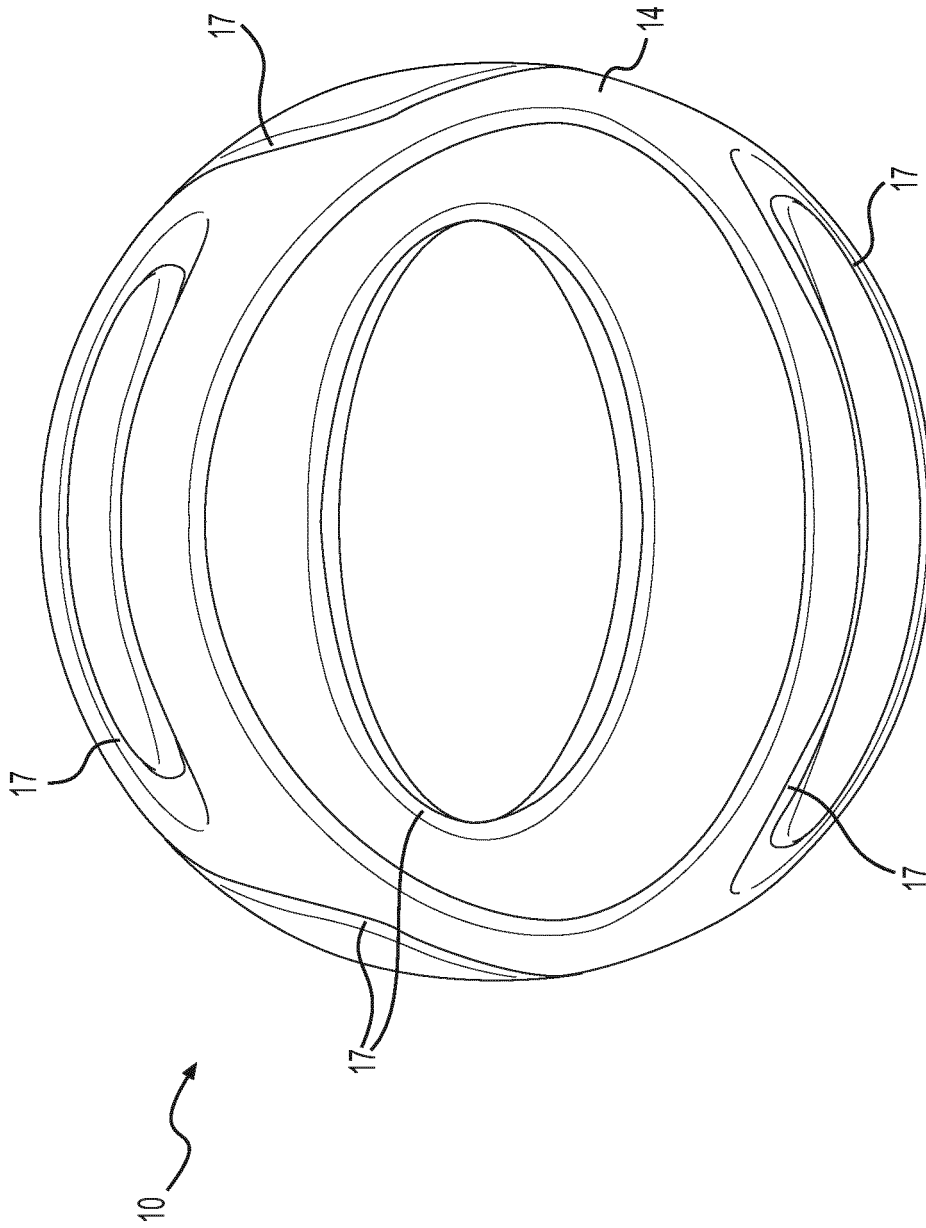


FIG. 7

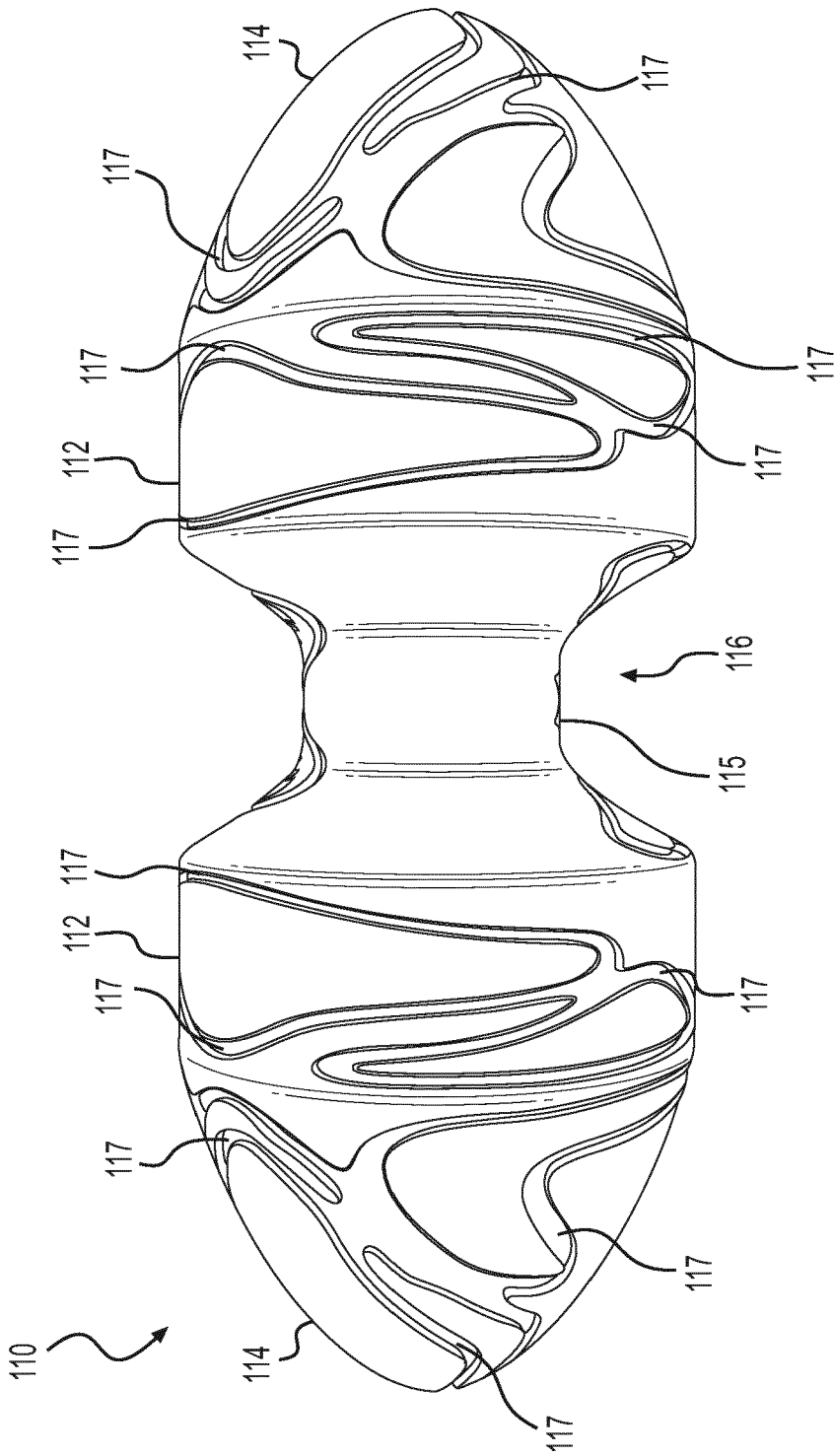


FIG. 8

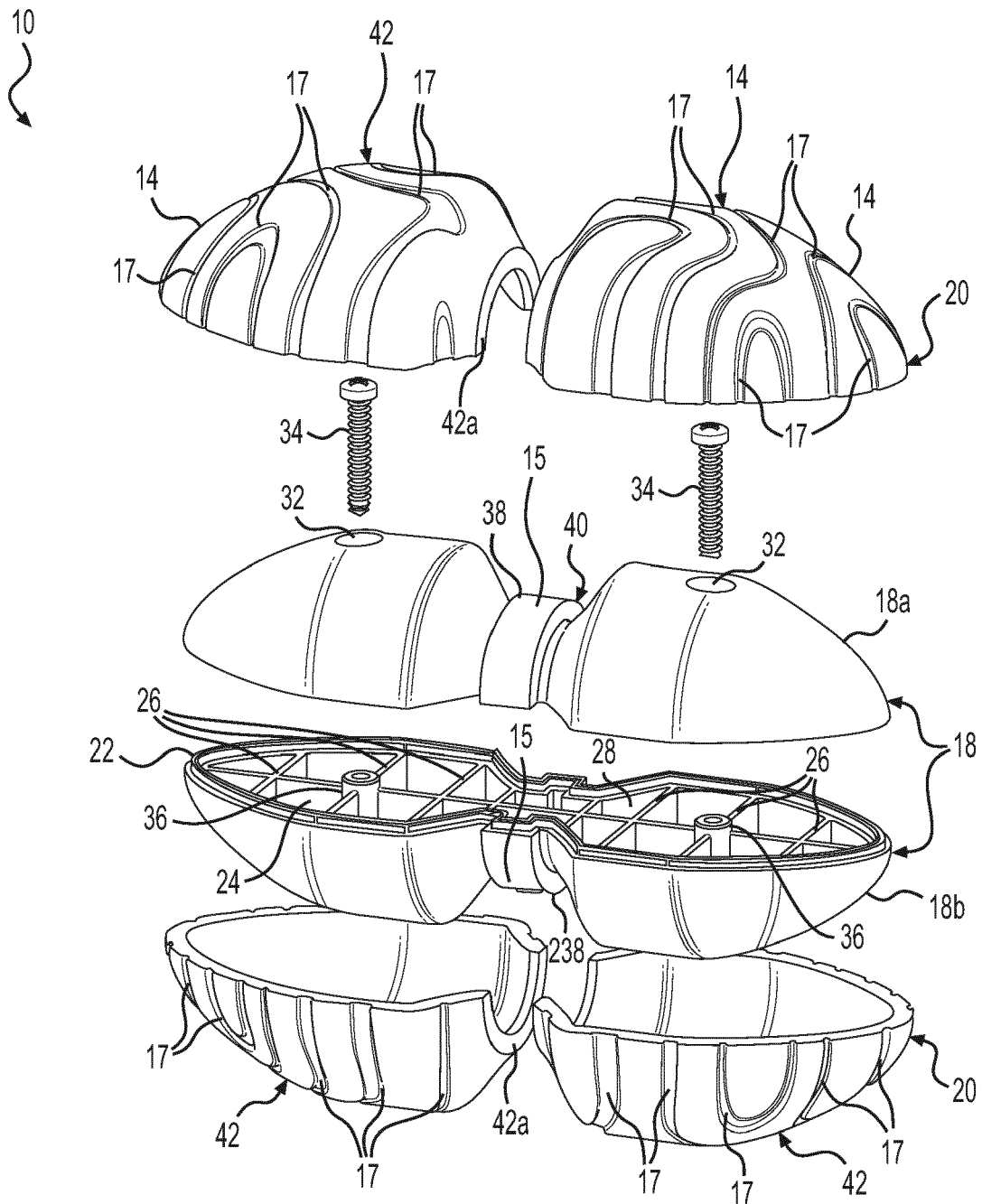


FIG. 9



FIG. 10

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

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